

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee**

December 17, 2018

Members: Mike Brillhart, Chair
Drew Reilly
Vic Pallotta

Mr. Brillhart called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. A-126

Temp. Ord. A-127

Temp. Ord. A-128

Temp. Ord. A-129

Temp. Ord. A-130

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. A-126

An ordinance re-assigning the non-bargaining positions of Assistant Fire Chief and Public Utilities and Community Outreach Coordinator to the appropriate pay grade within the classification and compensation plan, amending exhibit "A" of ordinance 117-2015, and declaring an emergency.

Fire Chief Fred Jackson stated this is an effort to deal with the phenomenon they refer to as compression. In each and every contract, compression seems to compound. They are at the point now where the chief officers of the Fire Department versus people that are covered by the contract are seeing compression in the modern-day number. With this change, the Assistant Fire Chief will make more than the Captain and the Senior Third Lieutenants by a small amount. If they don't make this change, the Assistant Fire Chief will make about 1.5 percent less than the base pay of the Captains next year, so it was brought before Council for that reason.

Mrs. Pyke asked who the Community Outreach Coordinator is. Mr. Anthony Zumbo, Service Director, stated that the Public Utilities and Community Outreach Coordinator is Becky McCleary. Mrs. Pyke asked if that has always been Ms. McCleary's title, and has she always been in the Fire Department, or is she not in the Fire Department or Public Utilities. Mr. Zumbo stated that Ms. McCleary started as a Public Utilities Customer Advocate. When the NECCO Department was created, she was shifted into the NECCO Department and her job title was changed. This ordinance is to readjust her salary, as it's long overdue. Mrs. Pyke asked if she was still technically in the NECCO Department. Mr. Zumbo stated that she works in the NECCO Department, but she's paid out of the Utility Billing.

Mr. Reilly moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-126 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Pallotta. Motion passed (3-0).

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Temp. Ord. A-127

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a collective bargaining agreement with Local 399 of the Utility Workers' Union of America, AFL-CIO, effective July 1, 2018, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brillhart stated that this ordinance is what was discussed in Executive Session.

Mr. Pallotta moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-127 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Reilly. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. A-128

An ordinance amending Section 303.10 of Title One, Part Three of the Codified Ordinances, relating to impounded vehicles, and declaring an emergency.

Police Chief Davis stated that this ordinance covers Police Department tows. Most of them are police-related tows. The charges are governed by the ordinance. They met with Mr. Mason, the owner of B&B Towing, who does the police-ordered tows. There hasn't been a change in his rates since 2011. His insurance rates have gone up, especially on the stored vehicles. The problem is people don't get the vehicles out in a timely manner. The only thing he added is an addition is for stored vehicles.

Mr. Brillhart asked how many people are towed off of the street or public property. Chief Davis stated that the Police Department tows a lot of the cars. They have unlicensed drivers. They have crashes. They have the parking situation. Usually, it's a last resort trying to tow a car. Most of them are towed out of crashes, as well as the people who are unlicensed drivers. Mr. Brillhart asked if a car is abandoned in a parking lot somewhere, do the police have to be called. Chief Davis stated that they had to change that ordinance to allow them to be able to do that. They just give them a number. The ordinance changed and freed that up a lot for the Police Department.

Mr. Reilly asked if these are all costs passed on to the owner of the vehicle. Chief Davis stated that is correct. They don't pay for those vehicles at all, and they don't collect that fee. Mrs. Pyke asked if they tow for housing violations, the cars that are sitting on lots, like the unlicensed vehicles, and is that with B&B Towing. Chief Davis stated that is correct. All police-ordered tows go through B&B Towing. They try to work with the property owner to get them licensed or repaired, but they could eventually be towed.

Mr. Reilly moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-128 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Pallotta. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. A-129

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Local 2662, effective July 1, 2018, and declaring an emergency.

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Mr. Brillhart stated that, once again, this ordinance was what was discussed in Executive Session.

Mr. Pallotta moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-129 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Reilly. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. A-130

An ordinance establishing compensation levels for non-bargaining employees of the City of Cuyahoga Falls for calendar years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Russell Balthis, Law Director, stated that this ordinance establishes the compensation levels for non-bargaining employees in the City of Cuyahoga Falls. This ordinance just tracks the same changes that were made with the union contracts, which was 3 percent effective July 1st, 2018, an additional 3 percent on July 1st, 2019 and an additional 3 percent on July 1st, 2020. He would also note, in Exhibit A, the Assistant Fire Chief on the first page and then the Public Utilities and Community Outreach Coordinator both have a note here stating that those are under Temporary Ordinance A-126.

Mr. Reilly moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-130 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Pallotta. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.